



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local 17

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Dean Bradley

Business Manager & Financial Secretary

April 28, 2016

Dear Senate Energy and Technology Committee members,

My name is Dean Bradley. I am the Business Manager of Local 17 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. We proudly represent Utility and Construction Linemen, Line Clearance Tree Trimmers, Cable Splicers, Substation Technicians, and Power Plant Operators for the last 124 years in the State of Michigan.

I would like to thank Chairman Nofs for his leadership on this highly complex and incredibly important issue. Chairman Nofs's plan is a Michigan-first policy that will enable Michigan to plan for the future and allow Michigan's hard-working men and women to produce Michigan's energy. Our economy, our jobs, and our families depend on a stable electric supply. Local 17 commends your focus on the future of affordable, reliable electricity for our state.

Michigan is in a period of profound transformation. As our state continues to rebound from one of its worst periods of economic recession, it's crucial that our lawmakers enact policies that continue to facilitate the comeback.

Our workforce is changing hands to the younger generations. Our energy production fleet is on the cutting edge of development and in the middle of it all; our state is experiencing substantial business and job growth. It is crucial that our next energy policy allows our state to continue to rebound – and regulation will be the key.

Looking back at Michigan's experience we have seen cost shifting and subsidies that the vast majority of Michigan's families and businesses have had to shoulder. Going forward, the current structure is unworkable given Michigan needs to have adequate electric supply to power our state. It is absolutely fair to hold those that sell electricity on the open market accountable.

Currently, Retail Access customers have the ability to switch from provider to provider without paying for the reliable services from which they benefit. This poses reliability and affordability challenges in accurately assessing generation needs of the future. Given the difficulty in predicting customer load, utilities are faced with a unique challenge to plan for and build new assets in the most cost effective way while protecting system reliability.

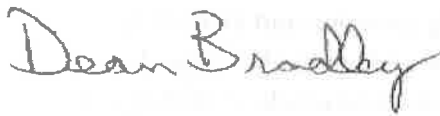
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If these issues are not resolved, Michigan's days of economic recovery could fumble. The Midwest grid operator has testified of a looming capacity shortfall, and consumers cannot accommodate the threat of volatility in electric rates. The legislature must enact a comprehensive new policy to remedy these issues and allow Michigan to plan for our state's energy future.

At the end of the day, Michigan residents require affordable, reliable, clean energy. Financially healthy utilities investing in the State of Michigan's electrical grid. These are the hallmarks of a resilient Michigan economy. Above all else, we need to keep good middle class jobs right here in Michigan.

Chairman Nofs has the right idea. This bill allows us to keep a good thing going, and help Michigan secure its own energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dean Bradley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dean" and last name "Bradley" clearly legible.

Dean Bradley
Business Manager / Financial Secretary
Local 17 IBEW

DB:rh/opelu42/afl-cio